Bristol, June 7th 1850 -
Friday

My dear Mr. May.

While I have a little time in hand (& I have rather more than usual now from having been a unwell,) I will acknowledge your last received letter, that of April 29th from ~~Worcester~~ Leicester, containing the report of Mrs. May's safe confinement with a little girl, upon which event I sincerely congratulate you & Mrs. May — & my new correspondent Adeline. We had surmises, tho' never confirmed by you, that you were expecting an addition to your family. I was happy to hear of the safe arrival of the "Criminal Reports", of which I informed Mr. Jardine whom I lately saw in London. It is satisfactory to me to learn that the Alderney bee's performances afforded any pleasure.

The date of my last letter to you was May 7th (an eventful day at N. York) which was to go by Mr. Edmondson. On that evening, which was a rainy one, I went, most unexpectedly to the party (for I am allowed some license on account of my health) to a meeting of our Domestic Mission Com. at Mr. James's,

& had not been there long before 2 gentlemen were announced as bringing a letter of introduction to Mr. James from Mr. May. They were Messrs. G. & F. Frothingham. But for this very accidental circumstance of my going, I should not have seen, perhaps heard nothing of them. They breakfasted with me on the following morning, & on my persuasion, came to me on their return from Devonshire & spent a day & night, & I believe I was instrumental in prevailing on them to be in London during the Unitn. Meetings. There I had the oppy. of introducing them to several friends, & obtaining for them an invitation to a large soirée at Mr. James Yates's at Highbury, where were many interesting & intelligent people. They were interested in the Meetings, & found more zeal & earnestness in the English Unitns. than they expected.

During the week I was in London with my daughter (the one before the last) we lodged in the house where W. W. Brown resides: so I took him to Mr. Yates's party, introduced him to Dr. Carpenter, Mr. Rowland Hill, Mr. Lalor, &c as well as to persons likely to favour his lectures in distant towns: he was much pleased with the visit. I saw much of him at our lodging, & think him a thoroughly honest, open, intelligent, & and good feeling fellow. I called on Mr. Cyrus Pierce, (I think they call him "Purse") who was lodging at Chapman's

The "Inquirers" of last Saturday, & the pre-
(May 25 & June 1st)
ceding one, contain accounts of the London meetings. I took cold in London, & having done more than my strength was equal ~~by~~ to (by taking some part at the meetings (never however excepting at the particular request of the managing friends) I have been nearly confined ever since my return last Monday week.

In my former letter I think I mentioned our intention of a trip to Paris to see Mrs. Chapman, the Miss Westons & Mrs. Follen, before they separate. The 2nd week in June was the time we fixed, but whether I shall be well enough to go next week, I cannot say, certainly I am not fit for the journey this week. It will grievously disappoint us if we cannot accomplish this meeting.

Mr. Webb will send, probably by the mail which takes this, a Glasgow circular, in which an onslaught is made upon the Boston

Bazaar by ~~an~~ some A.S. ~~Society who~~ people who
used to support it, but ~~&~~ who now declare their
intention of no longer sending any articles, &
urge other friends to adopt their course!! The
reason is, the employment of its funds in
helping to spread "infidel opinions", appeal
for "desecrating the Sabbath" &c, &c, &c Extra
are given from Mr. Wright's letters in the Lib
& Mr Garrison's commendation of the justice of their of them in p
Mr. Webb has written a letter to the Secy. which
he means to send to Mr. G. with the circular
for the Libr. — Of course the
accusations are really quite answerable:
but the attack is ~~a~~ plausible, & I fear must
be injurious to the Bazaar. You can hardly
understand how offensive H.C. Wright's coar
way of expressing himself is to many of yo
warm friends here; & when his letters appear
in the Libr. & are commended by Mr. G. people
will not discriminate, & at once settle, "they
are not the ~~people~~ persons to be guiding the A.S. cau
— they shall have none of our help", &c
My own notion at present is, if I can do it
effectually, to write a temperate, explanatory
letter to the new Society, — such a one as I m

MS.B.1.6 v.14, p.10

2nd/ if needs be, print, & distribute in those directions where I think the Circular is calculated to have a mischievous effect. – I have sent the Circular to Mrs Chapman, & begged for some data for positive contradictions; I have written also to Mr. Andrew Paton, Mr J. O. Murray, Mr. Webb, & have begged Brown to be on the watch to meet the charges. my daughter has written to Miss Martineau; so you may be assured that every aid I can render in checking this attack of, I suspect, the bigoted orthodox, shall be employed in the service of truth, & justice, & the "Am. A-S-Socy";

I of course read Webster's speech & Mr Calhouns "dying one", with much interest, and all the commentaries upon them, (especially Messrs W. Phillips & Parker's.) What you say of Mr. Furness's communications with Mr Webster shows more fully, the lamentable conduct of W. I had much sooner have Mr Furness's reputation than Mr Webster's, & how well Mr. F. conducted himself at the late N-York meeting! rather an ill-natured report of that meeting has appeared, as might be expected, in our "A-S. Reporter". You must have had a lively time there!

Mr. Wallcut did not send me a receipt for the Libr ~~from~~ "up to Feb. 6. 1850. No 6 Vol 20." – I am

Ms.B.1.6 v.14, p.16

glad the balance in your hands is so much in my favour. Will you be so good as to transmit, as soon as ~~when~~ convenient to F. Douglass 12/6 in paym^t for a year's "N Star." for a lady near Monmouth who has commissioned me to procure it for her?

Can you tell me if a young man of 21, accustomed to the employment of a clerk, (book-keeping &c) would be likely to obtain employment in a merchant's, or other counting-house in Boston? I am interested in behalf of one, (not from direct knowledge of the individual) who intends to try his fortune elsewhere, as soon as he, or his friends, can pay for his passage to America. He gets in Waterford, I believe, but 13/ a week, is very worthy & competent, & is under the necessity, to him a painful one, of receiving help from an aunt, (my friend) who can ill afford it. I spoke to Mr Geo. Frothingham about him, who thought that at Montreal he might readily find employment. Should a young man named Mahony, nephew of Mrs Biss of Bristol, ever present himself to you to ask you what his chance wd be in Boston, do not suppose he is taking a liberty for which I have not given him warrant, however small may be my right of ~~allow~~ presuming upon it.

You ask about Homœopathy? Did I not once give you my ideas on the subject? I have no time now for ~~enlarging~~ saying much upon it. And indeed I know nothing of H. in America. Here it is a fruitful source of income to its practitioners. In chronic complaints, & in such where much may be done by diet, & management, persons often do well, as a matter of course. The infinitesimal doses of medicine are given to obtain the faith of the patient: I believe not one sensible Homœ. pract. has the slightest ~~faith~~ trust in them for any other power. When active med. are needed, the really educated men who have adopted H. for its gain, give powerful ones under pretence of the ~~professed~~ homœopathic, or small doses. I have heard of an example where 1 gr. of Morphia, (equal to 4 ordinary doses of laudanum) was comprised in a globule: a lady who took 2 or 3 nearly lost her life. In serious, acute, & especially inflammatory diseases, Hom. here is a most hazardous system: many valuable lives, I believe, are lost thro' the neglect of prompt remedial measures, which it occasions. There may be errors, & much mal-practice in ordinary medicine; but it has at least had the benefit of the lifelong labours of some of the finest minds & most devoted philanthropists the world has known: I look upon the Union in its opposition to Homœopathy, as one of God's best bl to man. The system of Hom.y is baseless - its absurdities, are quite extravagant, & I can give few well educated medical men the credit of having the slightest belief in them. I was concerned some time ago to have a really foolish letter from Eliz.th Pease praising Hydropathy, upon the ground of the uncertainty of regular Medicine! None is more willing than myself to admit this uncertainty - but I know not where to look for a more matured science of the Healing Art. Because Jael drove a nail into Sisera's brain, & the prophetess Deborah praises the act of as a heavenly deed of the "Lord's" appointing, I am not disposed to give up the evidences of Xty. -

I fear your ill health is from "wear & tear" & want of brain rest. I have too a theory, it may be groundless, - that a simple, & rather sparing diet is less observed among you, than it is with us.?

I have just read a letter fr. W. B. Carpenter from St Louis, May 1st. I hope you ~~will have~~ to have met with him, & he has spoken out an unreserved condemnation of Slavery!

His stomach was sickened at a Slave auction if his Heart were not too, - it cannot be in its right place! My love to Adeline & thanks for her letter. With kind regards from my ter I am, dear Mr May, sincerely yours J. B. Estlin

Ms.B.1.6 v.1.4 p.18

Happening to have a spare copy of the Glasgow circular, (I wish I could remember how Miss Martineau characterizes it) I inclose it, in case Mr. Webb fails to send one.

Will you forward the accompanying note to Douglass immediately.

ms.A.1.6 v.14 p.18